MONTEREY NEWS

August 2013
VOLUME XLIII · Number 8

The Town

by Susan Gallant

Select Board meetings during July were pleasantly uneventful. Select Board members dealt with lots of administrative tasks as well as personnel issues.

New Accountant

Throughout July, the Select Board interviewed a number of highly qualified candidates for the part-time position of town accountant. Though it was a difficult decision, the Select Board ended up choosing a local resident to fill the position.

Brendan Fletcher, who will be graduating in December from UMass Amherst with an undergraduate degree in business administration, with a concentration in accounting, was offered and accepted the part-time position of town accountant. Brendan impressed the Select Board with his professional demeanor and attitude. Brendan also assured the board that he would definitely be staying in the area indefinitely and that his schedule was extremely flexible, allowing him to work closely with acting accountant, Maryellen Brown, who will be training and mentoring Brendan through October.

Police Report

Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's chief of police, had been on vacation in June and had a number of incidents to report during the July 1 Select Board meeting:

- Sinking boat on Lake Garfield.
- False alarms at Beartown Mountain Rd., North Cove Rd., Stevens Lake Rd., Mt Hunger Estates, and Hebert's Cove.
- Disabled motor vehicle at Main and Chestnut Hill Rds.
- Truck rollover at 3 a.m., Sandisfield Rd.
- Mutual aid calls (5) in Great Barrington.
- Assisted fire department with traffic at intersection of Tyringham and Main Rds.

Barbara Palmer

Sampling the Bake-Off entries at the Bidwell House Museum's Township No. 1 Day, July 6.

- Lockout on Eaton Rd.
- Tree across Fairview Rd.
- Trees across wires on Fox Hill Rd. and on Beartown Mountain Rd.
- Medical call on Stevens Lake Rd.
- Robbery reported on Main Rd.
- Well-being checks on Pixley Rd.
- Tree down and on a garage on Main Rd.
- Loose dog on Gould Rd. returned to owner.
- Assisted with a dispute at post office.
- Complaint about a trespasser, Pixley Rd.
- Abandoned 911 call on Gould Rd.
- Complaint about improper care of puppies on Main Rd.
- Complaint about harassing phone calls on Pixley Rd.
- Suspicious activity reported, Lake Ave.
- Suspicious activity at Benedict Pond was actually a medical emergency.
- Break-in reported on Art School Rd. that turned out to be a bear. (The bear was charged with breaking and growling.)

Gareth returned to the July 22 Select Board meeting to report the following activity:

- Lockout at the Lake Buel boat ramp.
- Purse found at Umpachene Falls, brought to an officer in town who returned it to its owner.
- Motor vehicle accident, Tyringham Rd.
- Lost cat reported on Pixley Rd.
- False alarm on Sylvan Rd
- Lost dog that was later located and returned to its owner.
- Lost money clip on town beach that has yet to be found.
- Threatening remarks posted on a Facebook page.

At Gareth's request, the Select Board approved a six-month probationary term for Donald Hopkins as a part-time police officer. Don will begin by directing traffic in the town center on Sundays until he finishes his training.

Gareth also reported that his department's new cruiser arrived on Friday, July 19, and expressed his appreciation to the town for approving this purchase.

Beartown Yellow Lines: Epilogue

On July 1, Maynard Forbes, head of the highway department, and Chief Backhaus met with the select board to respond to the concerns expressed last month by Beartown Mountain Road residents over the recently painted yellow lines on that road.

According to Maynard, yellow lines increase road safety by keeping drivers in their correct lanes, and the reflective nature of the lines helps drivers navigate unlit roads at night. Gareth added that the lines also protect the town from litigation, should there be an accident on the road. Maynard also wanted to point out that although the Massachusetts Highway Department estimates the cost of painting these lines at upwards of 35 cents a linear foot, Monterey paid only .035 cents for the center lines.

Also in response to residents' concerns, Select Board members Muriel Lazzarini (chair) and Scott Jenssen each drove down Beartown to see for themselves how necessary the center markings were, and both found that the center lines made the circuitous, hilly road safer.

Finally, once it was clear that the lines were not going away anytime soon, Beartown Road resident Christine Goldfinger responded by writing that even though she and her fellow neighbors were not thrilled with the outcome, she wanted all to know how much she and everyone else appreciated the conscientious hard work town employees demonstrate in keeping the roads clear and safe throughout the year.

Giant Plant of Horrors

Muriel Lazzarini, chair of the Select Board, wants everyone to be aware of a particularly noxious, invasive plant that has recently been spotted growing in Monterey. Giant hogweed is a massive plant that can cause blisters and even blindness to those who are exposed to it. Because of its similar appearance to other, innocuous

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species, the Massachusetts Natural Resources Collaboration encourages people to view a chart of lookalikes, found at www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/comparisontable.htm before reporting the weed for eradication, which can be done by filling out the form at massnrc.org/pests/hogweedreport.aspx.

Tree Warden

Winston Wilson, Monterey's tree warden, came in to discuss the extent of his job's responsibilities and the number of hours involved in fulfilling those responsibilities. The Select Board encouraged Winston to keep a log that includes his hours and a description of the work he's doing so that he receives adequate compensation and the Select Board can revise the job description and the hours it requires to more accurately reflect the scope of the position.

In a related matter, a Monterey resident has been concerned about off-duty police officers being used for traffic detail when the tree warden must hire an independent contractor to remove large trees on or near major roadways. Maynard Forbes and Gareth Backhaus both confirmed that hiring a detail officer in such situations is a standard practice, especially when traffic is heavy or conditions may be unsafe. In fact, Monterey requires an officer be present to direct traffic in such situations.

(*cont. on p. 4*)

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Saturday, August 17

***Around Monterey* . . .**

9:00–10:30 am: Fishing Derby for Kids
Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, Hatchery (River) Road

. . . At Gould Farm . . .

10:30 am–1:00 pm: Ongoing Family Fun: games, music, petting zoo, hay ride, hay jump, crafts and other activities for ALL ages

11:00 am–12:15 pm: Diane's Trail Walk, Guided Tour
Meet at beginning of Diane's Trail, Curtis Road

11:30–1:00 pm: Picnic Lunch
Sandwiches, chips, drinks available near Harvest Barn

2:00–4:00 pm: Bidwell House Museum Tours
Special complimentary tours at 2 and 3 pm

. . . And at Lake Garfield

2:00–4:30 pm: Fun for All
• Face Painting
• Motorboat Rides
• Sand Castle Building
(*Bring your own sand "tools"*)

4:30–5:30 pm: Roger the Jester

5:30–7:00 pm: Dinner
• BYO Family Picnic (*Please help us by taking your trash with you at the end of the day!*)
• BBQ: hot dogs and hamburgers to supplement your picnic
• Marshmallow Roast

5:30–9:00 pm: Music + Dancing for Everyone
DJ, Jesse with Dance Guest/Fitness and Zumba Instructor, Tuan

9:00–10:00 pm: Fireworks
(Bring a flashlight!)

(*Town, cont. from p. 2*)
Asking the officer on duty to handle this kind of traffic, along with his or her other responsibilities, is unreasonable, seeing as such large undertakings can last an entire day.

On the Beach

Josh Allentuck, chair of the parks department, dropped by the July 29 Select Board meeting to discuss an ongoing situation at Lake Garfield. Apparently, some of the local camps have been dropping off busloads of campers at the public beach, without prior notification. This poses a number of problems that our small beach is not equipped to handle, such as insufficient parking spaces and picnicking spots. But the issue that raises the greatest concern is water safety.

Water safety regulations dictate that one lifeguard is required for every 25 people, and when upwards of 20 adults and children descend on the beach, it creates an impossible situation for the lifeguard in attendance and puts everyone at risk.

At the urging of the Select Board, Josh will be drafting a letter to the camps in the area, explaining the issues of concern and suggesting some alternative solutions.

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Special Town Meeting

The Special Town Meeting took place on July 12 at the firehouse. Mark Makuc gaveled the sparsely attended meeting to order at 7 p.m. It was held primarily so that a secret ballot could be cast for the purchase of the grader, a protocol that, amid all the other issues, was overlooked at the annual town meeting. The Select Board took the opportunity to include other items that had come up since the annual town meeting was held. The meeting itself was relatively brief and uneventful, thanks in large part to Select Board chair, Muriel Lazzarini, who explained the purpose of each item on the warrant and answered many of the follow-up questions.

One point Ms. Lazzarini stressed at the outset of the meeting was that, other than the grader, which was a carryover from the annual town meeting, the cash amount of this warrant totaled $32,200, but because Article 9, if passed, will terminate the Community Septic Repair Program, that will put $40,000 into free cash. Ms. Lazzarini wondered if there ever was a warrant in which more funds came in than were spent.

The first order of business was voting on the grader by secret ballot. Ms. Lazzarini reminded the attendees that there were no dissenting votes when the voice vote was taken at the annual town meeting. Once the votes were tallied, the grader was approved for purchase.

Articles 2 and 3 dealt with the town clerk's office. Ms. Lazzarini explained that Emily Johnson, Monterey's new town clerk, had been finding a number of administrative details that appeared to have fallen through the cracks. Our new town clerk is attempting to close up these gaps, but being new to the job, she needs the guidance of someone experienced in these matters, as well as the tools to carry out her responsibilities correctly. Both articles, to fund an assistant town clerk with a salary of $8,600 and to provide $10,000 for software and archival material passed, with only one dissenting vote for Article 3.

Article 4, to appropriate $3,000 for an assistant treasurer's salary to support another elected official who is new to the position, was passed unanimously.

Ms. Lazzarini tabled Article 5 (to transfer $1,000 from FY14 Accountant Salary line to Treasurer Salary line).

Article 6, which would provide $4,500 to repair the exterior walkway to the library, was also approved without dissent.

Article 7, to appropriate $6,100 for fiber-optic services for town hall, the library, and the fire department as well as for the cartographic mapping services that's used not only by the assessors office but by the fire and police departments as well, was unanimously approved. >

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Aug 3 Xuerong Zhao, piano
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Aug 10 J.S. Bach: The Art of the Fugue
Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
Bach's great contrapuntal cycle in a new orchestration for strings, winds and harpsichord by Daniel Stepner

Aug 24 Daedalus Quartet
Erwin Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, Smetana

Aug 31 Shall We Gather at the River: Music of Charles Ives
Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
Songs, Violin Sonata #3, Decoration Day, Emerson Transcriptions for piano. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano, Daniel Berman, piano and Daniel Stepner, violin

Sept 7 License My Roving Hands
Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
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Firemen, food, neighbors, conversation, music at the July 27 Firemen's Steak Roast (photos Glynis Marsh).

Article 8, to change the day of the annual town election back to the same day as annual town meeting, was tabled because the bylaw amendment approved by town meeting in 2011 that changed election day from town meeting day was never registered with the attorney general's office.

Article 9, which would terminate the Community Septic Repair Program, established to help homeowners comply with the new Title V regulations, was also unanimously approved.

Maggie Leonard, chair of the Planning Board, asked approval to table the solar photovoltaic section of Article 10, explaining that such a move would have no effect on homeowners' installation of solar arrays on their property. The remainder of Article 10 dealt with making the entire town a wireless-overlay district. These sections of the article were approved with no opposition.

—Susan Gallant

George Packer to Read at Monterey Library Aug. 9

George Packer, a staff writer for the *New Yorker* and the highly acclaimed author of *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*, will read from his new book, *The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America* at the Monterey Library on Friday, August 9, at 8 p.m.

The Unwinding presents a devastating picture of what has happened to the America and Americans in the last thirty years by taking us into the lives of four people: a North Carolina farmer's son seeking for a new "greener" economy for the impoverished rural South; a factory worker in Youngstown, Ohio, trying to survive and find a new life for her city after the factories closed; a Washington insider oscillating between political idealism and the lure of big money; and a Silicon Valley billionaire who questions the Internet's significance and thinks of a radical vision of the future.

Don't miss this chance to hear an important and accomplished author reading from what is already being called one of the defining books of our time.

The event is free, sponsored by the Monterey Library.

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Taxpayers' Corner
Using Town Funds

Massachusetts towns have several types of funds at their disposal that can be used to pay for expenses, in addition to the property tax levy: stabilization, free cash, and reserves. These funds are, of course, also funded by tax dollars, but they act more like a savings account. A balance is built up in anticipation of future obligations.

Monterey has a stabilization fund, which, according to *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*, published by the Division of Local Services, allows a town to "save money for future years or avoid borrowing for capital projects. For example, towns often fund such items as fire trucks or building repairs from these funds." Monterey has a healthy stabilization fund which has not been used a great deal recently because borrowing costs have been low. Monterey also has a stabilization fund for Retiree Health and Life Insurance.

Another available fund is free cash, which, according to *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*, is "generated when actual revenue collections are in excess of estimates, when expenditures are less than appropriations, or both." In other words, when we collect more than we estimate, or spend less than we appropriate, we gain free cash. What should free cash be used for? "Free cash balances should be used for non-recurring expenses and not to balance operating budgets."

However, Article 17 on this year's annual town meeting warrant asked to appropriate $200,000 from free cash to "reduce the tax levy." While this is a legal request and some, especially large, high-tax municipalities occasionally present such articles, it is not good financial practice. According to the *New Officials Financial Forum Handbook*, another DLS publication, "Depleting free cash to balance annual operating budgets may lead to tighter financial times." This is a polite way of saying that if you use savings to balance your budgets, eventually you go broke.

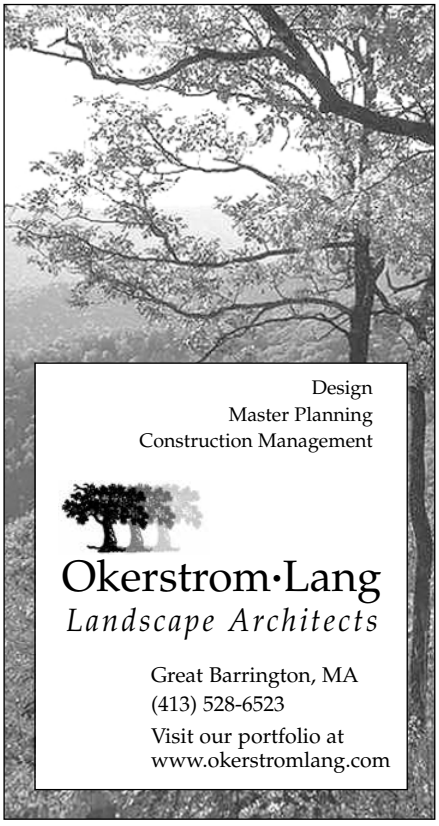
Monterey is not in any immediate danger of going broke, thankfully, but in uncertain economic times, as everyone knows, things can change quickly. In the mid-2000s, Monterey suddenly found itself within several hundred dollars of the levy limit and had to pass a $300,000 override. Full-time Monterey residents, however, are in danger of going broke, as the town is now increasing taxes beyond what many can afford.

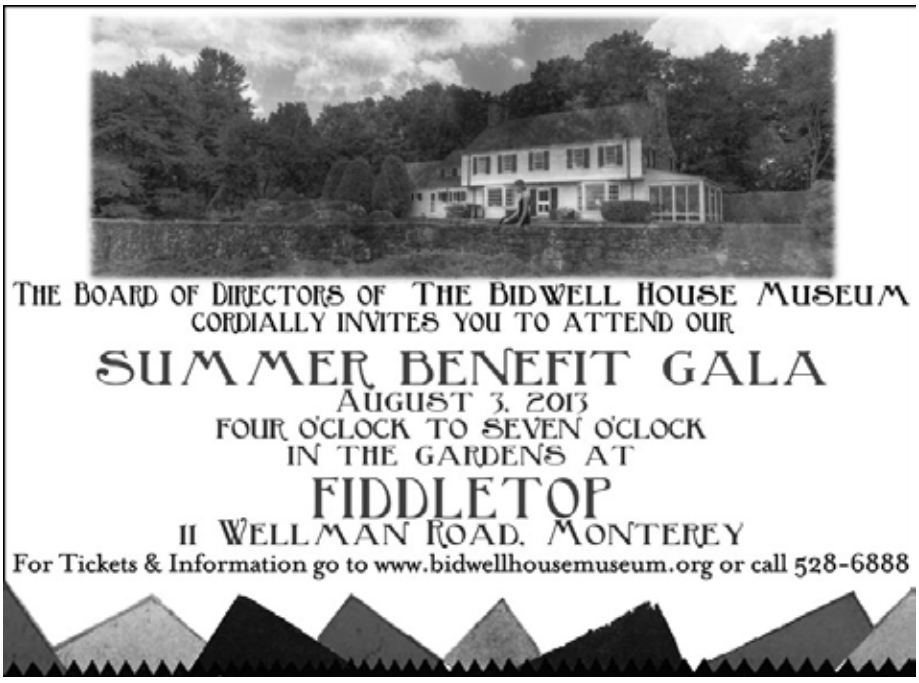
So how was the decision made to "reduce the tax levy" using free cash? During this year's budget meetings, according to the Finance Committee minutes of 1/29/13, "Stan [Mr. Ross, of the Finance Committee] stated that to reduce the tax rate that we'll need to use monies from stabilization and free cash although he recommends using $250,000 from free cash to try and keep the overall budget level funded."

Notice this use of free cash is an attempt to level fund the budget, which was already several hundred thousand dollars higher than last year. But instead of looking for real savings in the budget, town officials suggested using free cash to seemingly shrink the budget, when, at the end of the day, we all know you can only level fund a budget by *level funding the budget.*

Furthermore, according to the Select Board minutes of 2/25/13, it was "suggested that no matter what is done with the budget to consider using $250,000 from free cash of which we have currently $460,000 to help lower the impact on taxpayers (from a $0.60 increase per $1,000 to $0.30) with the budget as is." What does this mean? It means appropriating $250,000 from free cash would not even lower the tax rate, but only lower the *increase in the tax rate* to $0.30 per $1,000 of your property tax assessment, instead of $0.60 per $1,000.

In other words, this inappropriate use of free cash would not even have its

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desired effect of reducing taxes, but only lessen the increase. That $0.30 would add approximately $150 to the average single-family tax bill, which, as of FY13, had already increased to $2,972, up $177 from FY12. An increase of $0.60 in the tax rate would have added over $300 to an average tax bill.

This inappropriate use of free cash was further magnified at town meeting because town officials did not notify voters that Article 17 would not, in fact, reduce the tax levy. After voting on the operating budget and on a dozen special articles for various recurring and non-recurring expenditures in the amount of $393,343, voters were presented with the option to "reduce the tax levy" by appropriating $200,000 from free cash. Now, who wouldn't vote, on the face of it, to reduce their taxes? Seems like a bargain. Except using free cash this way *would not reduce taxes*, as town officials acknowledged to themselves back in February, but did not acknowledge to voters at town meeting. Moreover, unless the budget for next year is *actually* level funded (an unlikely scenario), *another* $200,000 must be appropriated from free cash to prevent taxes from increasing even further.

An appropriate use of free cash this year would have been for non-recurring expenses, such as the 4WD police cruiser and the fire department's air packs. Such onetime expenses can be legitimately offset by free cash without increasing the tax levy.

Another recommended use of free cash, according to the *New Officials Financial Forum Handbook*, is for "supplemental appropriations after the budget has been adopted and a tax rate has been set for the year." Midyear special town meeting appropriations, for example, can be funded by free cash, rather than by increasing the tax levy after annual town meeting. Better that 150 residents vote to increase taxes than only 27 voters, which was the number of residents (give or take a few) attending the July 12, 2013, special town meeting. At that meeting, $32,200 in additional appropriations were requested after the adoption at May's annual town meeting of the FY14 budget—a budget already $352,758.24 higher than last year's approved budget, an increase of more than 10 percent.

Sound fiscal policy allows residents to understand how their tax dollars are being spent, and how much. Using free cash inappropriately, however, hides or delays tax increases. Perhaps town officials should inform voters at town meeting how much the proposed budget will increase their taxes, instead of misusing free cash to kick the can down the road.

Next month: should reserves be used for foreseeable departmental budget overruns and other appropriations not approved by voters, or only to fund "extraordinary and unforeseen expenses," as recommended by the Department of Local Services?

—Jonathan Sylbert

Free Cholesterol Screening at Town Hall Aug. 8

The BVNA and BHS Community Outreach Program are offering free cholesterol screening at the Monterey Town Offices Thursday, August 8, from 2:30–4:00 p.m. This is a Heart Strong Program and will include a group education session on cholesterol. A non-fasting finger stick test is performed on each participant and the results are available to the individual. The class size is limited. If you are interested in joining BVNA and BHS Community Outreach Program for this free cholesterol check and class, please call 413-447-3052. Registration is required.

Otis Farmer's Market
Saturdays 9am-1pm
See what's happening in August!
*8/3: Tie Dying & Wood Carving
*8/10: Arts Festival & Crafters Fair
*8/17: Get Saucy Tomato Festival
*8/24: Summer Festival
*8/31: Kid Safety Day
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Thank You for a Terrific Township No. 1 Day!

Over 250 friends and neighbors visited the Bidwell House Museum grounds on July 6 to enjoy a beautiful summer day exploring Monterey and Tyringham history. A highlight of the afternoon was the baking contest. Who made the best pie, cake, or cookies, you ask?

The winners of the 2013 Bidwell House Bake-Off were:

Cookies:

1. Marya Makuc's *Butterscotch Chocolate Chip Cookies*
2. Amy Tournas-Hardt's *Lemon Squares*
3. Madelinne Pope's *M&M Cookies*

Honorable mention: Eileen Hickey's *Apricot Squares*

Cakes:

1. Delight Dodyk's *Plum Torte*
2. Mike Johnson's *German Chocolate Surprise*
3. Nadia and Gabi Makuc's *Gluten-free Blueberry Coffeecake*

Honorable mention: Carol Edelman's *Township Toffee Pudding Cake*

Pies:

1. Christine Goldfinger's *Blueberry Pie*
2. JoAnn Bell's *Rhubarb Pie*
3. Amelia von Korff's *Cow Pie*

Honorable mention: Rosemary McAlister's *Fresh Cherry Tart*

Thank you to ALL the bakers and judges! There were tough choices between the many excellent confections, and all goodies were enjoyed tremendously by the audience.

It takes many hands to make Township No. 1 Day such a fun event. It's possible ONLY because of **all the terrific volunteers!** Thank you to the **Monterey Historical Society** for fantastic arrowheads and the rare page of the Algonquin bible. Thank you to the **Tyringham Historical Commission** for a terrific Civil War display. Very special thanks to **Gould Farm** and Eric Pedersen for lending us a rabbit, turkey keet, and chicks for the day. They were much loved. Thank you to speakers and activity leaders: Peter Murkett, Esther Heffernan, Michael White, Roger Tryon, Rob Hoogs, and Charlie Flint. Thank you to **musicians** Bonner McAllester, Joe Baker, Steve Adams, Pete Adams, and Walter Palmer, and interns Madelinne Pope, Justin Makuc, Emily Halford, and Kat Lister.

And a huge thank you to all the **Volunteers:** Lynn Leavitt, Diana Deacon, Pat Salomon, Delight Dodyk, Doug Neu, Chris Johnson, Muriel Lazzarini, Steve Adams, Mary Makuc, Susan Johnson, Eric Pedersen, Siobhanne Pope, Charlie Flint, Scott Martin, Peter Murkett, Michael and Rachel White, Roger Tryon, Esther Heffernan, Julie Kern, Melanie Kern, Frank Kern, Therese Gatterburg, Francesca Gatterburg, Henrik Palmer, Caroline Palmer, Emma Haskell, Barbara Tryon, Chris Goldfinger, Sydney Brandwein, Nini Gilder, Sarah Hudson, Maggie Howard, Alice Hale, JoAnn Bell, Alex, Christa Lindsay, Ian Lindsay, Kathryn Roberts, Rob Hoogs, Nancy Jones, Gil Schrank, Sal Currenti, Paula Moats, Tonio Palmer, George Emmons, and others too shy to get your name on the list.

Photos of Township No. 1 Day can be seen on the museum's Facebook page.

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director
Bidwell House Museum

Maureen Banner

Esther Heffernan leading the "Three Wives Walk" to the Poet's Tree at Bidwell House Museum's Township No. 1 Day, July 6.

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Monterey Community Center Update

The Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House/Monterey Community Center Committee has been busy and productive this summer. With the funds from the town and private donations, both cash and in-kind material and labor, the house will be closed in before winter. Lead paint has been removed, the structure of the first floor is being rebuilt, the building will be lifted up and then leveled, and new sills will be installed where needed. The building will be sealed and insulated, and it will boast new, energy-efficient windows. Replacing the clapboard siding will be part of an upcoming phase.

This level of accomplishment takes us halfway, financially speaking, to the goal of finishing the first floor. Much of the interior work will be done by town-resident volunteers; funds are being raised for the materials to complete all electrical and plumbing, to install the donated furnace and all kitchen and bath fittings and fixtures. Therefore the group's immediate priorities have turned to fundraising, with the formation of a new committee charged with brainstorming, organizing, and initiating broad opportunities for funding. This includes direct appeals and applying for grants.

Participation in the project is welcome—whether in the form of cash, labor, or committee efforts. Contributions can be made to FWMH (the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House). For more information please contact Mary Makuc (528-5834) or any member of the Monterey Community Center Committee. Information about the Community Center and how to help support it with contributions or in other ways can be found at our website, www.ccmonterey.org.

—MaryPaul Yates

ॐ

Friends of Lake Garfield Seeking New Leaders

We are looking for people passionate about the health of our precious lake, dedicated to a healthy environment, and optimistic about our ability to impact it in our local community. We need new leaders who are knowledgeable about:

- the internet, social media,
- organization building and outreach,
- collaboration with local and state government.

Current leadership is happy to pass on our knowledge about the lake.

—Julio Rodriguez, Pat Edelstiein, Hy Rosen, Pat Salomon (644-8833)

Bidwell House Museum "Twenties in the Berkshires" Garden Party at Fiddletop

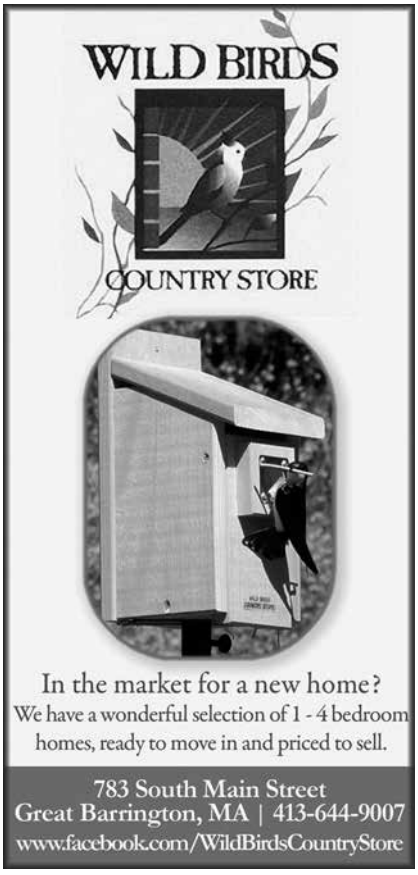
The place to be on the afternoon of August 3rd this year is the Bidwell House Museum's 1920s Garden Party at historic Fiddletop estate. All friends, neighbors, and members of the community from near and far are invited from 4 to 7 p.m. to spend a charmed summer afternoon in one of the most beautiful spots in the Berkshires. Guests will stroll the grounds, sip Roaring Twenties cocktails, enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, and bid on treasures to take home—all to benefit the museum. The "East Egg Trio" featuring Skip Parsons will play 1920s jazz.

Fiddletop is a unique 1920s-era estate property sitting high on a ridge above Monterey and is currently the home of William Brockman. Formerly the estate was the summer home of Eugene Ormandy, principal conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and before him it was owned by concert violinist Zino Francescatti, who appropriately named it Fiddletop.

Both world-famous musicians made highly acclaimed appearances at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The summer gala is the major fundraising event of the year for the museum, supporting the historic 1750s homestead, all programs, and the 192 acres of grounds, open to the community year round.

Tickets to the Berkshires in the Twenties Garden Party are $50 per person and can be reserved by contacting the museum office at 413-528-6888, or go to the website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.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Safe Boating on Lake Garfield

Watching the behavior of some boaters on Lake Garfield has made it apparent that a review of safe boating rules is necessary. So, here goes . . .

- No one under 12 years of age may operate any motorboat, unless accompanied onboard by an adult (18+). Ages 12–15 only if they have passed an approved safe boating course or if accompanied by an adult (18+). No one under the age of 16 may operate a PWC (personal water craft). No exceptions.
- Be courteous to nonpowered boats as they have the right-of-way.
- No watercraft shall be operated recklessly or dangerously.
- No waterskiing/boarding/tubing without at least two people in the boat (driver and spotter).
- Always travel in a counterclockwise direction when pulling a skier/rider and at other times when possible.
- No operating a motorboat or PWC within 150 feet of any swimmer, waterskier, dock, float, or mooring area, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way. If you must do so, no operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph). This would include most of the small (west) portion of the lake.
- No waterskiing/boarding/tubing on the small portion of the lake.
- No wake in the channel. No operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph).
- A skipper is responsible for damage caused by his/her wake, so reduce speed when appropriate.
- U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests are required for each person.
- No operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Report all unsafe boating activities to the Monterey Police (528-3211) or the Lake Garfield Assistant Harbormaster (Julio Rodriguez, 644-8833). Try to get the registration number of the offending boat.

We've listed the most important boating rules. For more information about Massachusetts safe boating regulations: http://boat-ed.com/ma/handbook.

—Steve Aaronson & Hy Rosen,
Friends of Lake Garfield

Are You Feeding the Weeds in Lake Garfield?

Due to a variety of circumstances, the weeds on Lake Garfield seem to grow more robust and bothersome each year—and you, yes you, may be one reason why. If you live on or around Lake Garfield you are feeding the weeds if you . . .

. . . use common fertilizer on your plants and lawn. A lot of us are already doing a great job of providing weeds with an abundance of fertilizer. We dump it on our lawns on or near the lake. One of those Monterey rainstorms comes along and washes that fertilizer into the lake. Voila! Weeds enjoy a feeding frenzy. Fertilizer makes things grow in the lake just as they do on land. Makes sense, yes? Time-released fertilizers are environmentally friendlier and are less popular with weeds as they don't like hanging around waiting for their meals.

. . . use products with phosphates. Phosphates are found in almost all laundry detergents and dishwashing powders. They go down the drain, into your septic and before long seep into the lake. Weeds on phosphates bulk up like athletes on steroids. There are phosphate-free detergents that, happily, do nothing to enhance weed growth—but, you have to be willing to spend a few pennies more for them.

. . . rarely clean out your septic tank. Septics are designed to seep. That seepage can ultimately find its way into the lake, and guess what? If you're a weed, septic seepage provides mega nutrition—and tastes better than chocolate. Septics should be cleaned out every few years.

So many of us complain about all the weeds and don't realize that we are nurturing their growth or simply won't go out of our way to change our behavior. If you live on or around Lake Garfield, please don't feed the weeds.

—Hy Rosen, FLG

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Recipients

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, has announced that it has awarded a total of $68,700 in scholarships to 19 students from Monterey. The fund, created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her longtime friend Marjorie McLaughlin, supports the young people of Monterey as they pursue a college education.

"We were pleased to be able to help so many students this year," said Maeve O'Dea, Program Director at Berkshire Taconic. "Especially in these difficult times, scholarships make a huge difference to families who face soaring college costs."

First-time scholarships for undergraduate fall enrollment were awarded to Nicole Andrus to attend Berkshire Community College, Joshua Ibanez to attend Boston College, Ezra Marcus to attend the University of Massachusetts, Sheridan McAlister to attend Houghton College, Judah Piepho to attend Georgetown University, and Devorah Sawyer to attend Ithaca College.

Renewal scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies were awarded to Kelsey Alcantara to attend Salem State University, Lauren Andrus to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology, William Casey to attend Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Norah Crossnohere to attend Skidmore College, Eloisa Dean to attend Susquehanna University, Keller Dinan to attend Endicott College, Laura Dinan to attend Salve Regina University, Jason Duryea to attend Berkshire Community College, Fiona Lacey to attend Evergreen State College, Gabriella Makuc to attend Lawrence University, Bruce McAlister to attend Berkshire Community College, Dinah Mielke to attend University of the Pacific, and Emily Shaw to attend Ithaca College.

A committee of Monterey residents reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community service, a desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

To donate to the McLaughlin Wilson Scholarship Fund and for more information on how to apply in 2014, please visit www.berkshiretaconic.org.

Bidwell Museum History Talk Aug. 24

"The Hempstead and Jackson Families: Twisted Tales of Love, Loyalty, Slavery, and Subversion in Colonial New England"

On Saturday, August 24, history scholar and author Allegra di Bonventura returns to tell more of the fascinating story of Joshua Hempstead (1678–1758) and Adam Jackson (c.1700–1764) of New London, CT, as part of the Bidwell Museum History Talk series. Joshua Hempstead was a shipwright/farmer, and Adam Jackson was his slave for more than 30 years. They lived and worked alongside each other for much of that time. Joshua left behind a 47+-year diary which documents the lives of both men and their families. Hempstead's diary is perhaps the best source from colonial America for understanding the life of an individual enslaved man.

Professor di Bonaventura tells the intertwined stories of the Hempstead and Jackson families in her book *For Adam's Sake: A Tale of Two Families in Early New England*, which was published by W. W. Norton this spring to excellent reviews. In this engrossing narrative of family life and the slave experience in the colonial North, Allegra di Bonaventura describes the complexity of this master/slave relationship and traces the intertwining stories of two families until the eve of the Revolution. Slavery is often left out of our collective memory of New England's history, but it was hugely impactful on the central unit of colonial life: the family. In every corner, the lines between slavery and freedom were blurred as families across the social spectrum fought to survive. In this enlightening study, a new portrait of an era emerges.

Allegra di Bonaventura is an assistant dean at the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in New Haven, Connecticut. Her dissertation was awarded the George Washington Egleston Prize.

The Bidwell House Museum History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 a.m. Admission is $15 per person, $10 for members of the museum. The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey. For more information, please call 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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July Wildlife Report

A Moth, a Snake, a Dead Duck . . .

The large and the not-so-large: Ed Cohen's bear, Maureen Banner's skipper.

Near the end of June Ed Cohen on Art School Road saw a bear in the backyard and let us know, including a photo. We also heard from Liz Goodman about a black bear crossing Main Road (Route 23) on June 30, in late morning, between Del Martin's garage and the flats. That same day, Carol Ingher was traveling the same road and saw a red fox cross near Rudy Gero's place. Carol also saw a young deer cross her dirt road, right in front of her. She has purple finches and American goldfinches in her feeder. Carol reports a strong wild odor, maybe of a bear or of a fisher, she thinks. This animal was eating birdseed and dropping seeds on the doormat, and would be the first I've heard of a fisher going for seeds. They are typically quite carnivorous, like the other weasel family members. This strong odor, Carol reports, was experienced by Mary Kate Jordan's needlework group.

On the first of July, Steve Snyder visited the bank swallows in the gravel pit near Gould Farm and found them to be quite active and building nests. Steve says Leigh Tryon is careful not to disturb the birds while they are nesting. Tryon Construction uses gravel from that pit. Steve's bear sighting this month was partial: a rump only, disappearing over the guard rail on Route 23 near the Otis-Monterey town line.

Still early in the month, Wendy Benjamin and young Alex enjoyed a bear sighting in their yard on the eastern part of Hupi Road. This was around 7:00 p.m., and there were two bears, one large and one small.

In mid-July, Sharon Rosenberg was getting regular visits from rose-breasted grosbeaks at her feeder. This is on Tyringham Road, just up from the town center. Also around this time, Joan Ruttenberg and David Abromowitz saw a bear "ambling along the path by Stevens Lake," and they report that it knocked down Pamela Johnson's birdfeeder. David and Joan had a large woodchuck below the patio and a very large snapping turtle, probably coming up from the lake to lay eggs. They saw three belted kingfishers, too, on a branch over the lake.

During the July heat wave, John Marion and Alex Tenari were visited by a black bear in the backyard, on Cronk Road. They felt that even the bear "seemed so frazzled by the heat." A few days earlier, July 15, they saw a fine bald eagle flying fast over the treetops near the intersection of Corashire Road and Route 23. It flapped, then coasted, headed for Stevens Pond and was "such a strong presence."

On July 21, Arrie Setiawati and Ed Salsitz sent a photo of a dragonfly. It is a male common whitetail (see drawing and essay on p. 20). Sue Protheroe on Lake Buel has found a tiger moth, with bright colors like those of a monarch butterfly. After some research, she has identified it as a "harnessed tiger moth." And Maureen Banner sent along a striking photo of a skipper butterfly (above).

Libby Wolf found a large northern water snake basking in her canoe near Lake Garfield on July 24. The snake showed handsome geometric patterns and an orange belly as it disembarked when Libby tossed her gear into the vessel, getting ready to launch.

One sad note from the lake comes from Dale Duryea, who found a dead duck there, killed by a pellet gun, he says. Dale called the editor here, Will Marsh, and we don't know what sort of duck it was. Dale says the shooting was illegal and he has notified the Environmental Police Officer.

Thank you for all your observations. Send me or call me with wild life, or even death.

—Bonner McAllester
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"Garden Gustation"

What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

*Gustation? The E*ncarta Dictionary *states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Satiated with Cilantro and Coriander

The garden feels as if it is on the verge, almost to the point where we can't keep up any longer. We've had a bumper crop of beautiful blueberries this year. They are my favorite fruit for several reasons: they are fairly easy to grow organically, they pack a nutritional punch, they are delicious, and what we can't eat right away gets tossed in the freezer. We're also celebrating a great crop of the summer squashes, particularly our patty pan. They seem to send out three to four small squash every day and I've been trying some new recipes for them, for now. But one thing we also have plenty of is cilantro.

I love volunteers. Hunting around the gardens and the hoop house I'm finding volunteers. No, not someone to help with the weeding, but intentional plants that have gone to seed and are now showing up here and there. I enjoy the volunteers and most of the time I let them be where they land: morning glories, lettuce, poppies, etc. Sometimes the seeds are moved around by the birds or the compost, or just wait out a year. Such is also the case with cilantro, and we have nearly a truckload, albeit a very small truck.

I haven't purchased cilantro seeds for several years now. I plant some cilantro early in the season and harvest the fragrant green leaves as it grows but then I let it go to seed . . . nothing special, I just let it go. It has beautiful white blossoms and then clusters of round green seeds that when left alone will dry out and fall to the ground. The dried seeds are known as coriander and can be saved both for replanting and for recipes calling for it. Sometimes I just let it grow back again in the same spot or I'll scatter some of the seeds elsewhere and repeat the process. Inevitably, the cilantro comes up here and there around the gardens. We are most always satiated with cilantro.

Cilantro is an annual herb that has a citrusy flavor and is often found in Mexican and Asian dishes. We always add it to our salsa, black bean burgers, burritos, salads, and now our pasta. My daughter-in-law is from Thailand and she loves to use the cilantro roots crushed up in some of her favorite dishes. I realize that cilantro is not a flavor for everyone, but if you like it, you usually love it. I found the original recipe for this pesto in the Big Y freebie magazine but made a few adaptations. Feel free to make a few of your own depending on what herbs you have in the garden. Maybe you'll feel satiated too.

Cilantro Pesto

(Underlined ingredients are ours or local.)
3 cups loosely packed cilantro
¼ cup walnuts or other nut of choice
Dash of cumin

Stephen Moore

Flowering cilantro

1 tsp. of rice vinegar
2 cloves of garlic
2–3 garlic scapes (optional)
¼ – ½ cup olive oil

Place all ingredients except olive oil in food processor and chop well. Slowly add olive oil until the pesto is the desired consistency. Place in a covered jar and refrigerate until ready to use. Eat over pasta, add to your favorite sandwiches, add to humus, or top off just about anything.

What's growing in your garden and cooking in your kitchen?

—Wendy G. Jensen
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Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections

Part 10: Hale Road (Beartown Mtn., Griswold, Hupi, Art School)

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Going north on the Tyringham Road we turn left on the South Lee Road (the first. road to the left, [Beartown Mountain Road]). After passing the Catholic Church, we take the first road to the right, which is Hale Road [now Hupi Road]. Walking under a shadowy growth, we come to another road to the right. This is a short road [continuation of Hupi Road] leading to the Tyringham Road and from it we have an excellent view of the village and of Lake Garfield. Here are mammoth blackberries and beautiful thorn-apples. [In the forties, yes. Many sights are no longer extant on this walk.]

Retracing our steps to the junction, and now passing by that short road [turning right onto Griswold Road], we see a barway entrance to a meadow. In the meadow is a cellar pit. A very old house stood here. It contained a room without windows, so built that in time of thunderstorm, the residents might retire within this room, avoid drafts and not even see the lightning flashes.

This was a plank house with board partitions. The owner was a very ingenious wood-worker. People about town called upon him whenever they needed furniture, especially when they wished an unusual type. A corded bedstead, a rolling-pin, a spool couch or a secretary were all easy for him.

In those days, four hundred thousand pounds of cheese were made in town each year and great quantities of butter. The butter was made in stone churns or in wooden ones of similar shape. Many tedious hours were spent in churning by moving the dasher up and down. One day this woodworker surprised his neighbors by exhibiting a churn which he had devised and which differed from any they had seen. It stood upon three legs and had a revolving dasher operated by a crank on the side. The idea spread rapidly as it filled a long-felt need.

Farther on is another cellar pit with lilac bushes on the right. Walk into the driveway and note the different strata of gravel deposited by a glacier. See the fine specimens of high-bush huckleberries. Further on, look for wild high-bush cranberries and wild hop-vines. Soon, we come out upon the old Boston and Albany Post Road [Art School Road] at a point two miles from the village, so let us return home.

The Boston and Albany Post Road, frequently referred to as the Great Road, ran through the northern part of Monterey, coming in from Boston by way of West Otis, continuing by way of what is known as the Mount Hunger Road and described, in part, when taking the Mount Hunger walk.

Let us leave the village center by the Tyringham Road. At the second crossroads, we come to the end of the Mount Hunger Road on our right. The Post Road continues on our left [Art School Road, which this walk now follows].

The little building on our left was a schoolhouse and this part of town was known as the Morse District. Observe the first house on the right and note the low roof and large chimney. This is the last house remaining in Monterey of this type of construction. It is one of our earliest houses.

Look for wild plums by the roadside. When you admire their apricot color, think also of their taste when served as the old settlers prepared them, stewed in maple syrup. Moving up the hill, note the red barn on our right. The former barn on this farm was struck by lightning and burned. Fire insurance was not then in vogue but

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neighborliness was in style. Accordingly, this present barn, like certain others in Monterey, was built largely with funds contributed by townspeople as a token of goodwill, esteem and respect for an industrious but unfortunate fellow-citizen.

Ahead of us is a road to the right, leading to a conspicuous hilltop. Here is a group of buildings formerly used by the Berkshire Summer School of Art. Teachers and students of Art came from all parts of the United States to take summer courses. The buildings are now used as a children's camp. Ask for permission to look about and admire the extensive view [not now a camp, no longer an extensive view either, except of trees of course].

Returning to the Post Road and continuing westward, we soon come to roads leading right and left. Our road, however, goes nearly straight ahead through that gap in the stone wall. Follow it a short distance to the top of the hill where you will see the site of the first church built in Monterey [near the Bidwell House Museum].

Look for a small marble stone with inscriptions telling about the church. Pass what was the front of the church going downhill to a brook. The road has been so long abandoned that large birch trees have grown up in the roadway. Look for cellar holes, memorials of a community long departed.

Cross the brook and go up the opposite bank, coming out upon the South Lee Road. Cross this and follow the traces of the Post Road into woodland. A cellar hole on the left tells of a house built by one of our first settlers. Look for ten-pound bricks used by him.

Let us return to the South Lee Road, and start for home. We are about three miles from the village.

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Exhibits in Knox Gallery

Matter: Reconsidered, the summer community exhibit currently on view at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, gathers inventive pieces from seventeen Monterey, Great Barrington, and Hartsville artists. The works feature a wide variety of media, in all sizes and forms—from Pam Johnson and Mary Kate Jordan's quilts to Peter Murkett's chair of used pallets and pallet strapping, to Bruce Cash McAlister's suit of armor made from cans, tape, and rivets. If you haven't yet taken a look, please do! You may find inspiration for your own artwork in its free-ranging sensibility, which the Knox Gallery hopes to revisit in community shows to come. The exhibit will continue through August 24.

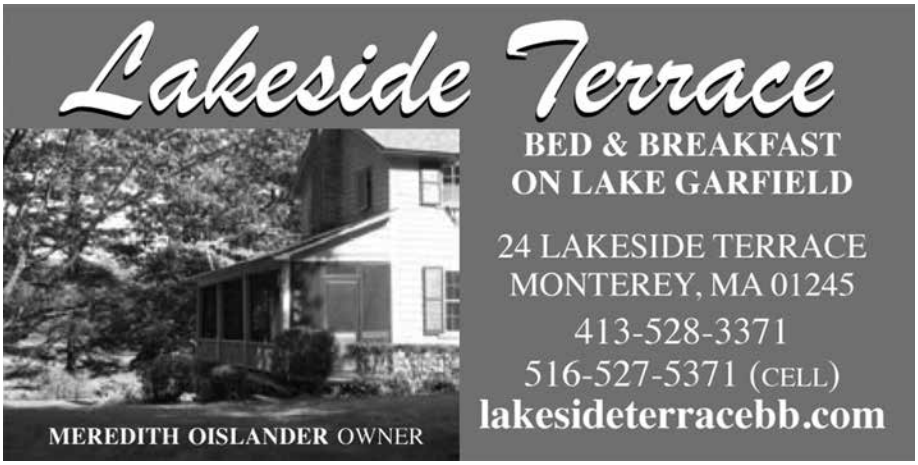
On August 30, the gallery will present its first design-focused exhibit. Fabric designer (and Knox Gallery Committee member) MaryPaul Yates will showcase a selection of her fabrics, along with preliminary sketches and development notes.

Yates became seriously involved in fabric design after studying drawing and painting at the University of Georgia and earning her BFA in painting from Syracuse University. With a passion for fabric stemming from childhood and a vague notion that fabric design was some sort of profession, she pursued a degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City. After a first job with a couture handwoven accessories studio, she moved through apparel and into the interior furnishings field. She has been responsible for the creative direction and product development for numerous textile mills, wholesalers, and furniture manufacturers. She has taught at Parsons School of Design, FIT, and New York School of Interior Design, and is a member of the Color Association of the United States Interior Colors Forecasting Committee. She is a recipient of various grants and awards and is the author of two books: *Fabrics: A Guide for Interior Designers and Architects*, for which she was awarded ASID Educational Alliance /Joel Polsky award, and *Textiles: A Handbook for Designers*.

The exhibit is designed to encourage a greater appreciation of fiber, fabric, and the soft coverings that surround us all. Yates also hopes that it will help make people more aware of a process most of us take for granted. "Many people look at me quizzically when I tell them I'm a fabric designer," she says. "Design fabric? Doesn't fabric just . . . happen?" they say. No, it doesn't, and Yates emphasizes that the pattern we see on the surface of the fabric—the "print" or "picture"—isn't the whole story. There's also yarn configuration and combination, weave structure, and finish to be designed, even for so-called plain fabrics. When you notice that a certain T-shirt feels softer than another, that's because a designer of some sort made a choice for a finer yarn, a tighter-gauge knit, or a more sophisticated finish.

The Knox Gallery will kick off both *MaryPaul Yates: Fabric Design* and Labor Day weekend with a reception on Friday, August 30, 6–7:30 p.m. Preceding the reception, at 5:30 p.m., MaryPaul will give a half-hour talk on the topic "So What Is Fabric Design, Anyway?" *MaryPaul Yates: Fabric Design* will run through September 28. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

—Julie Shapiro



2013: Happy 100th Birthday Gould Farm!

The Life that was in him did not pass, it pulses as creatively in the group as it did when he led . . .

"He seemed to still be there still, not within sight, but just out of sight, in the next room, or behind the nearby clump of trees. One seemed to catch the echo of his voice whenever anyone spoke, to catch the flash of his eye whenever anyone looked up. . . . One might have said that instead of one 'Brother Will', there were now fifty."—Prof. Bowen, May 1925
[excerpts taken from 'Brother Will' by Rose L. McKee]

Pulpit Rock, in summer, is cool under the pines,
leaves nodding in all directions –
the Goulds, just out of sight.

What future did they envision?

Perhaps '2013' marched too far ahead
to imagine,
like a sci-fi book in the attic.

Yet, their echo and flash
still pierce
the turn of a century.

Their community twirls on,
much like a Play,
different actors in the roles.
Hundreds still sing
in the morning
and follow a bell to dinner.

Even years after leaving,
a piece carries forth –
we may pause before eating,
sharing Harriet's grace.
Or sing in the shower:
"…and the seasons
they go round and round
and the painted ponies
go up and down . . ."
I often offer tea,
when tragedy strikes,
and there's nothing left to say.

Can we remember to have room at our table for all?

Though the passage of time
ladles out a new chapter,
much remains unchanged.
Roosters crow and
pails are cold in the morning,
just as it was in 1913.

How will the fates
be set spinning
for another hundred or two?

In 2001, we wrapped prayers
around pegs and
pounded them
into the barn.

Still building a future, in 2013 –

who guides the hammers
we find in our hands?

—Melissa Hamilton

Monterey Sunday Morning

Standing atop the steep steps
of the church,
immediately in view,
are random clumps of
daffodils and two
red tulips.

Brett and Nathan cross the road
to brunch at the General Store.

Dick Tryon climbs in his old pickup truck,
waves to Barbara walking over the bridge
to the last space
in front of town hall where
she had parked
just as the bell was ringing.

He must have gone out early;
Barbara met him in the vestry;
her mended shoulder's
working well, I muse.

(It's a small village.)

Inside I hear the voice of Pastor Liz
and wait;
I want to thank her,
to thank someone.
Standing here, I feel more gratitude
than I know what to do with.

I watch three cars go by,
consider the bench facing the river
by the library.
Wayne might not think to look
for me there.

I cross to get the mail and glance
back. From the post office I see
three
sitting on the sun-drenched steps,
and finally, Wayne
makes his slow way down along
the center rail, he talks to each
while my heart sings
this (sort of)
prayer.

— Donna Burkhart

Hatchery Lobsterfest Aug. 25

Lobsterfest on Sunday, August 25, will once again honor five of the late original founders of the present Berkshire Hatchery Foundation who volunteered countless hours in support of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery and whose efforts provided valuable recreational fishing and environmental education opportunities to people of all ages.

- Leroy E. Thorpe
- Philip C. Gunzinger
- John P. Doelman
- David E. Cathcart
- Leonard P. Simon

As an tribute to these five former members of the Hatchery Board Of Directors this eleventh annual celebration will also announce the recipients of two newly created annual Hatchery High School Scholarship awards to deserving biology students to continue their education. The first-year winners to be announced are Candace B. Siosek of Monument Mountain and Miranda Hosier of Mount Everett.

Then a four-course Maine lobster dinner will be cooked on site by Brad Morse. The appetizers are a raw clam bar of Wellfleet oysters and then lobster bisque. The lobster comes with corn on the cob, clam stuffing, a heaping basket of steamers, dinner rolls, and freshly made salad. The dessert is watermelon and Gould Farm cookies. The cost of $65 per ticket also includes one free drink of wine or beer. Hamburgers and hot dogs for children are also free.

Tish Thorpe will again orchestrate a festive display table of unique raffle prizes donated by local merchants such as Ward's Nursery, Domaney's Liquor, Evergreen Shop, Wild Birds Country Store, Taft Farms, and Hatchery Art Work for lucky winners in the drawing after dinner.

Keyboard music and lyrics by Mark Caldwell will provide an audible mountainside melody to the tempo of 300 gallons a minute of gravity-fed waterfrom an underground aquifer through the covered pools nearby. The flow insures the future of 50,000 fingerling trout and salmon, which can be seen dancing in the motion of the current, for next year's stream and lake stocking as well as fishing derbies for youngsters in the lower pond.

Please buy tickets early for this colorful event. Hatchery managers Henry Bouchard and Jeff Mosher will be there to answer any questions about the U. S. Fish and Wildlife's partnership with volunteers in our mission, which was renewed for another five years in 2011 through the historic signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding.

This year in July another partnership was formed with the wedding of Jeff Mosher and Kirsten Doelman, John and Marcia's granddaughter. The wedding was in a glorious outdoor garden setting on Hatchery Road beside the flow of the Konkapot River. Elizabeth Goodman, pastor of the Monterey Church Of Christ performed the blessing to join both the past and the future of this young couple in holy matrimony. Come join us with your congratulations and best wishes.

Lobsterfest will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 25, at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on Hatchery Road in Hartsville (Hatchery Road is a continuation of River Road in Monterey). For information or tickets, call 528-9761.

—George B. Emmons

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ANNOUNCING OUR NEW DIVISION: VACATION RENTALS

A Matter Reconsidered: A 1970 Journey in the USSR

During a brief window of time under Brezhnev's rule in the USSR, visas were available to foreign tourists to travel independently in the Soviet Union by car and to stay in campsites that were usually designated for Soviet citizens only. Planning for this trip necessitated learning the Cyrillic Alphabet, tracking down prerevolutionary Russian maps in London's antique map shops, and developing extreme persistence in the face of irrational thinking when actually getting the visa from the Soviet Embassy in London.

Thus, in 1970, I drove with an American friend from London through Hungary, across the Ukraine, through Kiev and Rostov na Donna, then through the Caucuses to Tbilisi, in Georgia, and finally Yerevan in Armenia, camping along the way.

Driving across the Ukraine was not a tourist's joy. Black soil dominated the scene relentlessly, with little relief by way of interesting sights. The cities we passed through were amassed cinderblocks, one drab apartment building after another. Almost nothing of pre-WWII architecture remained, due to extensive bombing by the Germans. The cities were visually interchangeable. In Kiev, people would engage in conversation only so far as pressing us to sell the clothes off our backs and our foreign currency. An aura of watchfulness and distrust pervaded. There were some remaining prewar buildings, with little of note except for their size. Massive statues of communist heroes dominated the squares.

Food was extremely scarce, with almost no meat available and an unbelievably cumbersome system for actually purchasing each type of food: line up to buy a ticket to buy; line up to actually select food, which was then seriously weighed in minute degrees: take away a piece, add half of that, reweigh and add another sliver; line up to pay, with a handful of change, uncounted, cheerfully tossed your way. We came to expect such inconsistencies in the overall surreal atmosphere of the Soviet arena. In restaurants, extensive menus were explained with delight, at length, despite the fact that often there was actually no food. Drinks? Yes, always!

We arrived in Rostov na Donna, our last major stop in the Ukraine, at the campsite at 1 a.m. and were met by the camp director, an English professor from Moscow. We were utterly exhausted, but this was not relevant to him. In great excitement, he immediately took us to his tent and asked us to fill out a questionnaire for his academic research about our use of English. He was specifically looking at the subtle differences in American English and British English usage of the conditional and the subjunctive! As an Australian, I qualified as British English, and thus we were an ideal couple of subjects for him. To our amazement, our responses to words such as "could," "would," "may" were totally different. Forget "cookie" versus "biscuit" or "lift" versus "elevator." The subtleties of our grammar were leading us down different garden paths, and the Russians knew this!

We were constantly surprised by the extent of the Russian knowledge of idiomatic English, and we were told by an Intourist guide that students had to choose either American or British English. Most students opted for American English and were learning through reading current American authors such as John Updike. This was in sharp contrast to the general lack of knowledge about life in the Western world. We came to expect the inconsistent!

Driving into Georgia through the Caucasus Mountains on treacherous roads with waterfalls crashing across them and frequent rockslides with only a tiny margin of road cleared for passage, we crossed bridges with armed sentries. We later asked our Intourist guide about these and he told us, with an impassive face, that we had mistaken shepherds with their crooks for armed sentries. It was very unclear to us whether he thought we believed this explanation or not. This experience of the absurd explanation became a more common occurrence the more we had contact with Intourist personnel. We began to feel that we were actually touring the theater of the absurd.

To be continued . . .

—Elizabeth Wolf

Elizabeth Wolf's collage inspired by her trip is on display in the Matter Reconsidered *exhibit in the Knox Gallery in the Monterey Library.*

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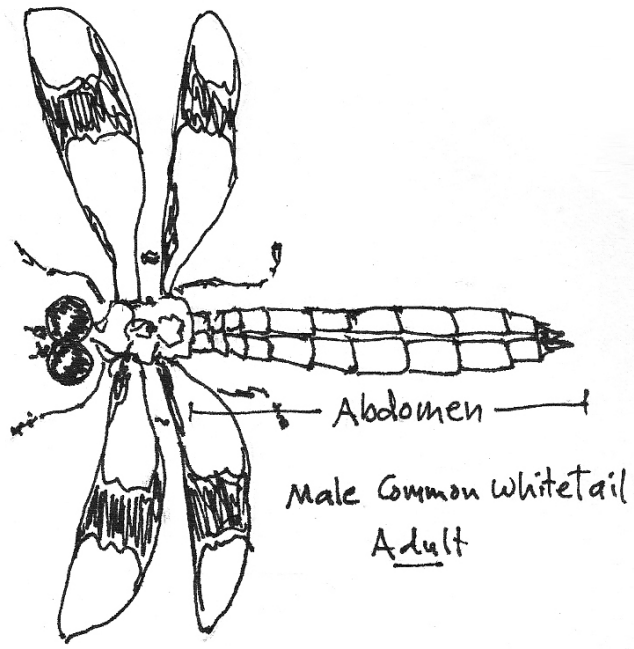
Dragons and Damsels, over Pond and Lake

Sparkling flyers swoop over our ponds and lakes, looking for a meal, guarding the home ground, mating and egg-laying for the immortality of the species. Some call them the Odonata, an insect order that includes both dragons and damsels. We English speakers may dodge the Latin and speak of darning needles, skimmers, meadowhawks, white tails, and "ten spots," or "twelve spots." For some of us, it's a challenge making out how many spots or what sort of eyes just went zooming by. So we are happy to look at the blur and know we have seen a dragonfly. Maybe if it sits down for a minute and looks more slender we will feel we have seen a damselfly, which in my family we used to call "darning needles."

This could be as far as we need to take it, taxonomically. Whatever is in a name, we can surely marvel at the creature as we see it, no matter what we call it or what some specialist will correct us and call it. We might feel much the same way about birds: little brown bird, big soaring bird, noisy bird, bright red bird. So we don't know what kind of sparrow it is or what its special Latin name might be. We see it and we like it. This is our neighbor and pal, and sometimes we put out seeds for the appealing little miracle and watch it come and go. Then one day maybe we go out and choose a field guide, full of photos and facts. We are getting in deeper.

When you buy the book you can feel as if now you know something, or at least you are on the road to knowing something. What you want to know is in your own bookcase and the next time the little brown bird sits still for a minute you'll dash to the bookcase and turn to "bird, brown," and see how you do. It can be daunting.



It can be enough to send that book right back to the shelf and tend to other matters. After all, we enjoyed the birds before we got the book, so we can still do that.

This was my situation as regards dragonflies. The book sat on the shelf with other field guides, including one to bark, one to insect tracks, and lots more. My most recent birthday, the giver of field guides even gave me a handmade "Guide to Fields." Big field, small field, flat field, hilly field. It finishes up with field of study, and Elysian field. It is a slim volume, fits in my pocket.

Some of these field guides will never make it outdoors because they are too big and heavy. My book *Dragonflies of the North Woods* does fit in my back pocket, I am happy to say, and just lately I have taken it with me everywhere.

The door to dragonflies opened here recently when Ed Salsitz sent a photo of a dragonfly that he said had "caught my eye." I got out the book and looked it up. Suddenly I was hooked. I remembered hearing about a man who has been an avid birder for decades and has now jumped into "dragonflying." Want to get into this field? The book I mentioned, which is by Kurt Mead and published by Kollath-Stensaas Publishing, Duluth, MN. 2003, could help take you there, as it has me. Who really takes us, though, are the winged dragons themselves.

Ed Salsitz's dragon was a "Common Whitetail," one of the skimmers. The male has the white tail, or the rearmost section of the body, which in insects is called the abdomen. This abdomen is not like the belly on you or me. It is long, more than half the total body length. In the female of this species, the abdomen is not white but brown with pale yellow side spots making a jagged line. The whitetails fly low over the water looking for a meal. Like most

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other dragonflies, they grab mosquitoes and other insects smaller than themselves.

While flying low, skimming, the female whitetail taps the end of her abdomen down to the surface, depositing eggs. The book says she does this so vigorously that she sends a splash, a drop of water, a foot in the air. The male flies along above her, warning off predators or troublemakers, including other kinds of dragonflies. He is also ready to drive away other male whitetails who may want to invade the territory.

Some dragonflies light on vegetation and dip the tip of the abdomen down to deposit eggs on the stem, underwater. There is one of the damselflies, the *Enallagma*, who can wrap her wings around her abdomen, holding a bubble of air, and walk down the stem of a plant right underwater to lay eggs or to explore the bottom, even to a depth of two feet. This is damselfly SCUBA.

The eggs hatch and a little larval form called a nymph starts life in the water. Dragonflies and damselflies spend most of their lives as aquatic nymphs. They are hunters, considered the dominant carnivores among insects in ponds and lakes, and take on anything smaller than they are, including small snails and crustaceans. During this aquatic phase of their lives, some dragonfly nymphs get to be two inches long. They take in water to get the oxygen they need, then expel the water out the tail end of the abdomen. This can enable them to shoot forward, jet-propelled. The damselfly nymphs are different, set up with three feather-like gills at the end of the abdomen. Their respiration is external.

When the nymph is fully grown, it climbs up a stem or stick, above the water, and splits its skin at the back of the head. The split grows and the adult dragonfly pushes out. Blood (hemolymph) pumps into the new wings, unfurling and stretching them. Then the hemolymph goes back into the body and the young adult rests. She is likely to make her first flight in early morning, before the first hungry birds are up.

I recommend Kurt Mead's 2003 book, for good writing, photos, facts, and for fitting in a pocket. I also love my parents' old hardback *Fieldbook of Ponds and Streams,* by Ann Haven Morgan (New York: G.B. Putnam's Sons, 1930). Ms. Morgan was a member of the department of zoology, Mount Holyoke College. She is still a fine teacher, through her book, encouraging us to observe, to think, to collect and preserve, and to keep a balanced aquarium. If we keep dragonfly nymphs over the winter, she writes, we must remember "they are thorough carnivores and must be supplied with small water insects or with worms like *Enchytraedae*." What are these? Ah, for that we need the Field Guide to Worms. This could be another window opening, maybe after it has been on the shelf for awhile.

—Bonner J. McAllester

Monterey Library Notes

There are still two remaining programs for the children on Saturday mornings. On Saturday, August 3, at 10:30 a.m. Ed the Wizard will perform magic tricks; he is funded by the Monterey Cultural Council. On Saturday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m. Mary Jo Maichack will entertain all ages with her music and stories. Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for sponsoring all the performers this year except Ed the Wizard!

Many thanks to all who made this year's book sale a huge success. Myrna's plant sale was bigger and better than ever. The lemonade stand did very well. Lonnie Solomon and Denise Andrus of the Friends of the Library cochaired the sale and helped direct a cast of dozens of helpers! People lent their tables and coolers, the Fish Hatchery lent a couple of canopies, and most of all many of you helped out in the book chains that moved hundreds of boxes of books out to display areas. Don't forget there is always an ongoing book sale in the Knox Gallery all year long.

Finally—we've added another hour to the schedule. The library is now open 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Tuesday mornings. Stop in and say hi to Rosemary in her extended hours!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

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My Week in Politics

One month ago, I was finishing my last Spanish class essay, walking out of the school a week earlier than the rest of my peers, and going home. Many other juniors in the same situation would be ready to kick their feet up, call it a year, and begin their vacation. I, however, was not going on vacation. I was headed out the next day at 7 a.m. on a bus that would take twenty Berkshire County students to Stonehill College in Easton to attend 2013 Boys' State. Boys' State is an intense, weeklong school of democracy run by the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary for the purpose of "emphasizing the understanding, importance and value of our democratic form of government." Around seven hundred high school juniors from around the state are specially selected for this all-expenses-paid program. I had signed up for consideration after hearing a local Legion member talk to my class about how great a program it is. He made it clear that once you signed up there was no turning around, and that you would get out of the program what you put into it.

Before I left, I was unsure of what to expect, not knowing how I would enjoy a week living at college learning about our political system when I could be relaxing a little after a year of school. Upon arrival at the campus we were all sorted into "towns" and "cities" numbering from twenty to twenty-five people who would live and work together as a team for the remainder of the week. Within and outside of my town named T2, I instantly started to meet attendees (staters) who had signed up just as I had, not knowing what to expect except from the details given in our pamphlets. We started to talk and joke with each other, and soon we got to know each other. By the end of the week, many of them became my best friends. No one was alienated or left out, which speaks a lot about the type of person who attends the program. After the first hour or two it became easy to go up to somebody and talk to them about anything: one of that day's lectures, general education sessions, the day's lunch, or where they were from.

A new level of confidence in meeting new people emerged from all of us the very first day. We learned to work as a team, solving as towns municipal problems given to us by the program directors, usually difficult scenarios written by lawyers. The towns elected officials from amongst themselves to represent their districts at the "state" level too. I was elected my town's State Representative, and within the House of Representatives we worked and solved state issues as they came by writing, debating, and passing bills, including one to prevent a hypothetical flu pandemic from spreading and one that extended the Boys' State "Lights out" until after the Bruins game had ended.

When the Legion described it as an intense program, they meant it. We woke up daily between 5:30 and 6:00 to get ready for the day. Every morning one of the three "platoons," comprised of about 130 of the staters would attend the colors, where reveille would be played accompanying the raising of the flag at 6:30. Every evening another platoon would attend the playing of taps accompanying the lowering of the flag at 5:00. Proper flag ceremony was very important to observe. Soon after both reveille and taps, as well at 11:30 a.m., we would go by town to breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Lights out would be at 10:30 p.m., except on one or two evenings when the Bruins were playing and we would watch slightly later.

There was not very much downtime. During the day, we would follow the schedules written in our handbooks. We attended our elective course in government, law, or economics for about an hour each day with various experts in the fields teaching, every day a different topic on the agenda. We would participate in one of the only co-ed events during the program, the General Education sessions for an hour and a half a day, topics ranging from the Bill

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of Rights to the electoral process. Between these we would attend two or three town meetings, discussing mock town events and scenarios, zoning, and budgeting. I calculated, wrote, and edited our town budget to suit our town's profile, including a surplus to boot, which was approved and passed by our town selectmen.

Some staters would have daily mini-courses in topics such as entrepreneurship, the modern military, and Freakonomics (economic connections between seemingly unrelated things, the term and topic borrowed for the purposes of education from the bestseller by the same name). Other staters, including myself, would attend state office meetings and the House of Representatives or Senate sessions. There was also a three-hour daily recreation period when one could partake in ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, football, track, basketball, softball, tennis, soccer, College-Bowl-style quiz tournament, or the Boys' and Girls' State newspaper. Or we could choose to just lie in the sun, as I noticed one junior do for the whole week's rec periods. The most important factor was that we were outside, as the dorms were locked and the councilors would not let you in.

Every day there was a special event. One evening there was a town-hall-style party convention with fellow members of our predecided Nationalist or Federalist Parties to build our blank slate party platforms from the bottom up, sharing an open microphone with two hundred other members of the same party. There was a night of campaign speeches before the election of major state officials; another night we enjoyed speeches from distinguished Boys' State alumni and an inauguration ceremony given by the Massachusetts State Auditor, followed by a dance and a lively watching of the Stanley Cup.

The program was run by a large number of counselors, professors, lawyers, politicians, and members of the Legion, all of whom had left their jobs and families for a volunteer week running the program. To all of them, I am extremely grateful. I am very grateful to our local Legion for supporting the program and sponsoring me. I am grateful to Post Commander George Oleen, who served as the Legion representative to my school and signed me up for the program. I am grateful to the directors, especially to Lawrence "Larry" DiCarra and Mark Avis. Larry is a lawyer and experienced politician, a longtime participant in the program, taking part every year since the mid 1960s. This year he served as the primary speaker during the General Education lectures, the fascinating government education elective, and most special events. Mark Avis is the Chairman, member of the Board of Directors, and was instrumental in running the program. I am also grateful to my counselors, former Boys' Staters themselves. One of them had attended last year as a junior, one had attended five years previously, and one had been a counselor for nearly fifteen years and was a professor at Harvard.

This was the best school-related activity that I have ever attended, and I plan on applying to become a counselor next year for 2014 Boys State. Although it was not all fun and games, and in some ways it was an exhausting, intense week, I had an amazing time. I was previously interested in politics, but I learned more about the workings of government and the state in general than ever before. I learned to deal with people and new situations head on. We all came out with so much more than what we came in with, through all the campaigning, teamwork, fascinating lectures on public policy and politics, and interactions throughout the week. The seven days flew by. It was a defining, life-changing experience for me. I knew when I was there that I was working with the best and brightest juniors from across the state. The program enables us to aspire to be leaders of tomorrow, and the week helped everyone to realize that potential leadership within. A week at Boys' State is something that every young person should experience if possible. I came away with so much, and I am so grateful for having been able to go.

—Jacob Edelman

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Rawson Brook Farm . . . 30 Years Old

Part 2: Clearing the Land, First Cheese

The first week of January 1979 we started cutting trees on what would eventually become Rawson Brook Farm. By "we" I mean primarily Wayne and myself, my mother, and our family friend Coleman Nimick, a retired gentleman banker from New Marlboro who wore white flannel pants. On the weekends my dad and others might stop in to help. Wayne would drop the trees and limb them up, and we would drag limbs, tops, and other branches to the fire. Logs suitable for lumber were left on the ground; anything suitable for firewood was cut in 4-foot lengths and stacked.

The learning curve was steep. After the first week we barely had a spot opened up big enough for a barn; maybe everyone was right and this was indeed a foolish way to go about things. It wasn't looking good. But by the second week we could keep the fires going through the deep snow, and Wayne could drop a tree exactly where he wanted it to go. We got into a rhythm. My 100-pound, 63-year-old Italian mother often arrived at the work site before we had even gotten out of bed. She brought the homemade lunch and other snacks in a big basket, worked with us all day and then around 4:00 p.m. would say, "You two must be exhausted. How about coming over to the house for some dinner. I'll run home and get it ready."

Courtesy Susan Sellew

Clearing the land where the Rawson Brook Farm barn now stands

This went on for 83 days; we worked nearly every day until the snow was gone and the fires started getting away from us. Nearly done at that point, we were working our way down the back hill and had exposed a view of the ridge behind the Rawson Brook. My father came to check in after work one day and teared up when he saw the vista out over the swamp and up the hillside. We were on a roll. We had delusions of opening things up all the way to New Marlboro.

I have to add that all the while the rumors were circulating around town. They are going to do what? There was talk of the awful clear-cutting that was going on down on New Marlboro Road. Wayne told one busy body that we were putting in a mini mall.

Once the cutting and burning was over, we paused and took a good look at ourselves. We had singed eyebrows and lashes, flying cinders had rendered our clothes full of little burned spots, and Coleman could no longer bring his not-quite-white flannel pants to Reid's Cleaners with anything close to a plausible explanation of what had happened to them, so we threw them into the last fire. We now had seven acres of open land strewn with pine sawlogs, stacks of firewood, and a sea of stumps. We hired a bulldozer to make winding paths so that Wayne could get around with the tractor to remove all the wood.

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Wayne set up a small sawmill and milled the pine trees we had felled into lumber we used to build the barn. We cut, split, and sold firewood to pay for some bulldozer work. The bulldozer popped the stumps out, all the while reserving the topsoil in piles that were later redistributed. Then began the days and days of picking roots and stones by hand before seeding a suitable cover crop on the area destined for the future market garden and a permanent pasture mix on the rest.

Needless to say, all this clearing and building the barn took some time . . . years in fact. The goats lived in what we called Shack City behind our house. I milked by hand outside and sometimes had to sand the milking stand if there was snow or ice so the goats wouldn't loose their footing.

Along with some market gardening, I did what I called my test marketing: making cheese in the house and selling it along with the vegetables from a little stand at the end of the driveway. When there were no vegetables to sell, the cheese was sold from our home refrigerator, self-service. I once came home to find three people I had never met sitting on the couch while the fourth was picking out his cheese from the fridge; it was great fun. Another day a customer's child turned on all the burners atop the gas cook stove, and since there was no pilot light, the house filled up with propane. We had to get the barn finished soon!

Before we could legally market our product, the barn had to be totally completed with the milk house and cheese room meeting state and federal specs. There was no one to tell us how to achieve this. There were no places we could go to buy exactly what we needed. We had to exercise all our research and ingenuity skills. In the fall of 1983 we passed our first State Inspection and were granted a license.

What a haul! I wrote to Martine Gadbois (my French cheese-making mentor from Montreal) and proudly told her the BIG NEWS. She wrote back saying she no longer made goat cheese; there was no money in it.

We had a party on the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend to celebrate. Everyone who had helped and supported us came. Folks came who had put up their money so we could get the first Share Loan, a precursor of our local currency BerkShares. We had needed this money for windows and our first printing of labels and flyers. Curious people came to see what this new goat farm looked like. Those who liked small and humble were delighted; others wondered what all the fuss was about. Joe and Bonner played music. Coleman was there in a new pair of white flannel pants. I cooked up a storm and made a wide selection of various goat cheese dishes for sampling. The chocolate goat cheese truffles were the biggest hit.

We will celebrate the 30th anniversary this year on Sunday, October 13. We are in the planning stages and I only know two things for sure. I don't have it in me to do all that cooking but there will be plenty of goat cheese. There will be a taste contest complete with local judges. We will be asking all of you to bring your favorite delicacy made with Monterey Chevre to enter in the fun.

to be continued . . .

—Susan Sellew

Bidwell Museum History Talk by Simon Winchester

"The Men Who United the States"

On Saturday, August 31, Simon Winchester, the acclaimed bestselling author of *Atlantic* and *The Professor and the Madman*, will give a talk for the Bidwell House Museum on his first book about America, a fascinating popular history that illuminates the men who toiled fearlessly to discover, connect, and bond the citizenry and geography of the United States.

How did America become "one nation, indivisible"? What unified a growing number of disparate states into the modern country we recognize today? To answer these questions, Winchester follows in the footsteps of America's most essential explorers, thinkers, and innovators, such as Lewis and Clark and the leaders of the Great Surveys, the builders of the first transcontinental telegraph, and the powerful civil engineer behind the Interstate Highway System. He treks vast swaths of territory, from Pittsburgh to Portland, Rochester to San Francisco, Seattle to Anchorage, introducing the fascinating people who played a pivotal role in creating today's United States.

Throughout, he ponders whether the historic work of uniting the states has succeeded, and to what degree. *The Men Who United the States* is a fresh look at how the nation came together.

The Bidwell House Museum History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 a.m. $15 per person, $10 for members of the museum.

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Do Creatures Goof Off?

I'm sitting on the back porch out in the country on a bright summer day. No one is around, except me and a host of nature's creatures going about their business. Or are they? Lore and observation inform us that some of them are real grinds, workaholics, constantly on the job, needing no breaks or requiring supervision. "Busy" bees surely fit that description. As "workers," they're continually buzzing about, tirelessly committed to locating flowers from which to extract nectar, after which they "beeline" it back to the hive. An idle bee? Unthinkable. The same is true of ants. They always seem wedded to the task, consistently on the move, often lugging enormous (for their size) pieces of material or dead insects back to the colony. Not out for themselves, they labor tirelessly for the group and to satisfy queen ants that depend on them. Watch a bird build a nest and you'll witness nonstop activity. Back and forth, carrying leaves, twigs, and other building materials, the bird cannot be distracted, sticks to the task at hand. A spider is usually no different. To observe him building his net is to witness total concentration and commitment. The web provides the lifeline to survival so this cannot be a casual undertaking—and it is not.

But is there a brighter side here, moments when creatures actually enjoy themselves?

Is it all work and no play for them? I can't believe they don't take breaks, carve out some personal time. In short—goof off. I suspect it does happen. How else am I to interpret the sight of two squirrels chasing each other from tree to tree, leaping across limbs, then scampering across my lawn at breakneck speed? What about those birds chirping happily as they soar over treetops and glide gracefully, alighting on a convenient branch? And the butterflies. What are they up to? From what I can determine, they're flitting here and there with no particular destination in mind, simply exhibiting their exquisite colorations. Then there are the fleas and the flies that swarm around on a regular basis. Do they not take great delight in buzzing past my ears, causing me to flail my arms awkwardly in futile defensive movements? Are they born sadists or just having fun at my expense?

It could be that I don't get it and that I've committed an error most common by attributing human motives and actions that simply don't apply to those creatures? Then again, their lives are usually short and most precarious. Don't they deserve a break now and then?

—Richard Skolnik

Richard blogs at: www.catchmydrift.net.

ॐ

Sadie the Dog

Some of you may remember Sadie, local celebrity of Monterey and companion of the late Blanch Mednick before she became my faithful companion. Sadie died of old age on July 2.

If you never had the pleasure of meeting Sadie, you will as you read on. She loved going for car rides and walks, chasing the bears, and, her absolute favorite, swimming. Sadie's persistence in chasing anything that moved and herding it in her own direction was all for her own fun and enjoyment. Never a day that her tail was not wagging. Her personality could not be described better than as like that of a teenage girl who just got her license. Most will remember the fur they took with them after giving her a good scratch behind the ears, and the bark she let out if you stopped before she was satisfied.

Sadie was the best dog and will always be remembered and never replaced. Miss you Sadie girl, love you with all my heart and thank you for always being there. I never will forget those big brown eyes and curly hair.

Special thanks to her godmothers Faith and Linda for bringing us together. And thanks to the *Monterey News* for publishing this for me. It means the world to me.

Sadie will forever be in my thoughts.

—Marc DelGrande

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Special Neighbors

To the Editor:
Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet some very special Monterey neighbors. This is to say thanks.

I had spent the previous week cleaning, building, lugging, and generally getting our house and boathouse on Bidwell Road ready for an annual family reunion. You will remember how hot it was, but I worked straight through the days with an occasional break for a granola bar and maybe a diet soda, then stopped at about five or six o'clock to cool off with a swim. As a former home renovation contractor, I am used to hard physical labor in hot weather. I even like it.

My wife Chris came up from Baltimore for the weekend, and the two of us worked frantically all Saturday getting everything ready for the afternoon cookout. Brother and sisters and their families began to arrive at four, and I dashed around making sure people had drinks and hors d'oeuvres, the genial host and everyone's uncle or big brother. I had a couple of drinks myself and put the steaks on the grill—the very hot grill—inhaling the summer air and the smoke. Since I sweat easily and a lot, I was wringing wet and the light breeze felt good.

Things were going well and I wasn't thinking much about hydration—eight glasses of water a day, I've since learned—much less the need to force even more in the extreme heat. As I turned the steaks, I noticed that the grill had been moved; then it moved by itself; then the chairs were whirling by; my sister spun around me, and I had to grab the porch rail to keep my balance. No good. I felt like life had suddenly been switched to slow motion, with the emphasis on the motion. Someone put a chair under me and I realized I was in trouble. Heart attack? Stroke? At least my seventy-year-old imagination was still working. Yes, call 911. I wasn't quite conscious enough to be really scared but I remember being very concerned that this might spoil the party or at least that I'd miss the steak.

I sat, trying to reconnect, for about sixty seconds, no more, when I saw the first of the responders. It was Officer Mike, whom I'd gotten to know and like after a couple of incidents involving my truck's accelerator and another involving my dog's leash. Now here he was, running down the porch and I could see the flash of his emergency lights behind him. Then the lights of more cars and trucks started stacking up along Bidwell Road. It was the cavalry, every member of the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department who had been, at that moment, within telephone range. (Alas, a few were out of reach. Oh, when will we get cell phone service?) I closed my eyes and surrendered.

When I next opened them I was looking into the face of a stranger that I can only describe as soothing. The guy was maybe my age, perfectly calm but very intense, in charge and absolutely reassuring. He took my pulse, checked my eyes and blood pressure, asked a lot of questions in that quiet, confident way that gives you to understand that he knows what he's doing. I literally felt that I was putting my life in his hands and—as long as I could still also see Chris behind him—that was OK with me.

The rest of the story is less exciting but worth mentioning: a trip in the ambulance with a couple of bags of saline drip on the way, to the Fairview Emergency Room for a CAT scan, then to Berkshire Medical Center for an MRI, overnight at the hospital for observation, teams of doctors and lots of nurses. Most memorable is the fact that at each stop someone was actually waiting for me at the ER entrance and that I got immediate and excellent care from very competent physicians even though it was late on a Saturday night. We weren't in Baltimore.

The important part of the story is what made it all happen—that is, after I keeled over. I can't say enough about the concern and kindness—not to mention the professionalism—of Monterey's "first responder" team. I would never have guessed that it was actually Roy Carwile's (owner of the soothing face) first call as the senior member; I didn't know at the time that twice as many people had answered the emergency call as were needed; and I didn't know that Mike was just coming from Otis when he got the call, made a hard right onto Bidwell, then directed traffic for the ambulance to get out onto Route 23. It was not only good care immediately delivered, it was brought to me by a bunch of kind and concerned neighbors, most of whom I had never met. It was a small town at its best.

Monterey has been our family's summer home for 120 years; more than 50 years ago Chris was rushed to the same Fairview ER with appendicitis; the booth on Roy Carwile's driveway was our only telephone for years; we look forward to each issue of the *News*. But we never appreciated this place and its people as much as on that Saturday night.

No heart attack, no stroke, just the coincidence of severe dehydration, physical exhaustion, unusual heat, and a couple of alcoholic beverages. Lesson One. Lesson Two is that I should plan to have the next bad thing happen to me right here in Monterey.

Thanks, guys.

—Greg Fahlund, Bidwell Road

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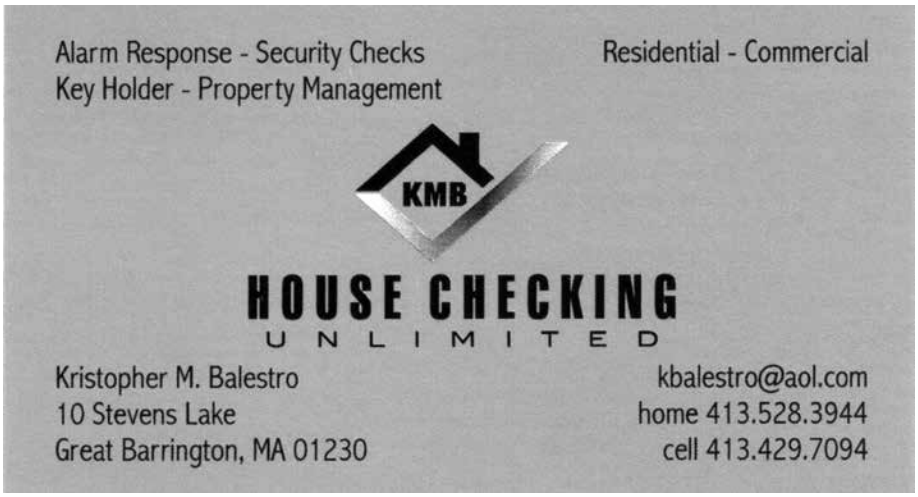

Town Clerk Software

To the Editor:
While I realize that an Editor must at some point accept material given to the Editor as true, this letter is not intended to imply that the *Monterey News* is culpable. But, there was presentation of falsehood as truth in the July report from Town Hall regarding software and archival paper for the Clerk's Office. Former Clerks were accused of taking software with them and never using archival or acid-free paper.

As for certificates, paper forms (archival) are supplied by the State. The software for filling in the archival forms when I was Clerk was done with Omniform Version 4.0 (and could also have been done with Acrobat). Omniform Version 4.0 was not a Town purchase. I used that for births and marriages on archival paper supplied by the State. Use of a typewriter was and is more common in small towns. Large towns with birthing hospitals receive the filled-in forms from the hospitals. Deaths are always recorded on archival paper supplied by the State to the funeral directors or, in cases of unattended deaths, to the Medical Examiner for them to fill out. After forms on State paper began being returned to the State, we copied them on archival paper before sending the originals to the State.

Secondly, software for dog licenses was accomplished by utilizing a package that comes with Microsoft Office, namely Access. Like other Clerks I learned Access in a weeklong course as part of Clerk training. The most recent former Clerk used another Office package, Excel, to the same purpose. Office is a standard for business and government, and the Town bought Office for the Clerk's office. Is Town Hall claiming that Office is no longer on the Town computer in the Clerk's office (as opposed to the State Computer, which is also in the Clerk's office)? Wow.

Thirdly, and while we are on that subject: The State Computer provides software for recording voters and voter activities as well as records for the Census or Streetlisting. Surely the previous three Town Clerks in the past four years did not walk away with State computers. If at least one if not two are not there that is amazing, since I entered the record of those who voted on that computer in early May. And there were two State workstations there then, as well as the Town desktop computer, complete with software included.

Finally, archival paper is always used to record the official minutes of the Town. That the Clerks cannot find any appropriate paper speaks more to the need to reorder it than anything else. It is $42 per packet and comes ready for use from Hobbes and Warren in Boston. That problem is more simply solved. As for acid-free paper for certificates: it was initially donated to Monterey by the Rising Paper Mill, and after that mill closed, we used Crane Thesis paper for many years, and other brands later.

We knew of Clerk software that would automate marriage licenses and birth certificates as well as a dog license program, but having achieved those goals, we thought to save the Town money until such time as the other programs outperformed ours. Perhaps now they would outperform, in which case we wholeheartedly support getting them for the Clerk. Just please don't use us and our supposed larcenous tendencies as an excuse for doing so. That is when it becomes bullying, and that is another discussion.

Thank you for listening.

—Barbara B. Swann

A Modest Proposal

To the Editor:
Ever since the days of the great bison herds, right on up through that pesky spotted owl, nature has become increasingly problematic for humankind. She often intrudes where she is not wanted and frequently throws up roadblocks to the progress which is so vital to our economy and our way of life. Pretty as she often is, she is the vixen who so often thwarts our most cherished dreams.

In the July issue of the *Monterey News*, Richard Skolnik posits the creation of nature-free zones, namely our homes. But why stop at human habitation? Why not assert our God-given dominion over this, sometimes literal, thorn in our sides? Our government could initiate a project, similar in scale to the mapping of the human brain, in which every aspect of nature, every living thing would be videoed. These videos would be stored and available to the public in various nature theme parks around the nation. Want to watch lacto bacillus at work or view the elephants of the Serengeti? Hop in the car and head on out to the nearest theme park. Once these theme parks are installed we could pave over the world, cover every surface with antibacterial and antimicrobial agents, and live a life of true progress, free from the useless discomforts which still plague our highly evolved species.

—Kit Patten

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Remembering Phyllis Bogdanoff

Phyllis Sweed Bogdanoff, longtime resident of Monterey, Greenwich Village in New York City, and Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, passed away on July 11, 2013, in Florida. She was 83 years old. She was predeceased by her younger brother, Lawrence Sweed (1967); her husband, Leonard Bogdanoff (1975); her parents, Frances and Paul Sweed (1976); her mother-in-law Bette Kirschner (1990); her stepdaughter, Patricia Bogdanoff Romano (1994); and her son, James "Jamie" Bogdanoff (2008, in whose memory the Monterey "Jamie's Court" basketball project has been planned). Phyllis is survived by three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a daughter-in-law, and numerous cousins, neighbors, friends, and colleagues who will remember her with great warmth and affection.

Phyllis and her husband, Len, were founding members of Lads Beach on Lake Garfield when they purchased a small pink bungalow on Sylvan Road in 1959, the house later expanding as their family grew. Patti and Jamie forever relished their idyllic summers on the road, the beach, and the water surrounded by friends who became family, and passed along that love to their children. Phyllis fondly recalled those years gone by when the grownups gathered for weekend rounds of cocktail parties and conversations in each other's homes; she is remembered for the beautifully carved watermelon boats she would contribute to the annual Lads Beach 4th of July picnic (and particularly the year when Jamie stumbled coming down the hill and dropped it, shattering fruit everywhere!). Despite numerous medical issues over her lifetime, including a major stroke in 2004 which left her at Berkshires Medical Center for nearly two months, Phyllis insisted upon spending her summers in Monterey, where she could visit in leisure with family and friends and work in her beloved gardens.

In an era when most married women stayed home, Phyllis took her NYU degree in hand and remained in the workforce, rising quickly to become the editor-in-chief of *Gifts and Decorative Accessories* trade magazine, which she led for more than thirty award-winning years. (During those summers when she "leaned in" to her job in the city during the week, her mother-in-law Bette stayed with Patti and Jamie at the lake, awaiting their parents' arrival each weekend.) Beautiful, smart, and career-driven, Phyllis traveled extensively and was highly sought after as a speaker, lecturer, and expert in retail trade, tabletop, collectibles, and stationery items. Once asked by a shop owner, "How do we know what the customer wants?" her answer was very direct: "The customer doesn't know what he wants; it is your job to tell him what he wants!"

Designer Terry Rosen, daughter of the late Howard and Connie Rosen of Point Road, shared her memories of Phyllis:

"When I was old enough to walk from Point Road to Sylvan Road, she was the lady in the pink house. I would go there and she would greet me, a petite brunette with a pixie haircut. Sometimes my little sister and I would go to visit her and she would give us candy, talk with us as if we were peers, and allow us to ride on her wooden covered swing. . . .

"Phyllis and Lennie became my parents' close friends in this little community of young families who had cottages on Lake Garfield. Their wedding anniversary coincided with my father's birthday and my parents' anniversary coincided with one of their birthdays—all causes for celebrating together. Phyllis never forgot our birthdays when we were children, giving us unusual and sophisticated gifts—I still have and cherish a silver Victorian hand mirror she once gave me.

"As I became an adult, Phyllis was always interested in what I was doing. I looked forward to coming over to talk on her porch, look at photos of her travels and grandchildren, and discuss her antiques and new plantings. A successful publishing executive who traveled the globe, Phyllis was a mentor, introducing me to people, recommending trade shows, teaching me about Spode and other finery, and sharing other professional, travel, and flea market advice. When I got married, Phyllis arranged for my husband and me to shop the showroom of our favorite Finnish housewares company. Phyllis was unusual for her generation in that she used the computer and email, which is how we kept in touch during the rest of the year.

"Not only did I admire her for her professional accomplishments, but I was in awe of the way Phyllis comported herself after a lifetime of unnatural and extreme loss: of Lennie at age 51, her brother also prematurely, her stepdaughter Patti in her forties, and the most shocking and devastating death—of Jamie, her son who we all loved, at age 47, only five years ago. Phyllis embodied the motto 'Keep Calm and Carry On' as she endured these tragedies plus her own health traumas over the years. She was a survivor."

Phyllis was laid to rest next to her beloved husband, parents, and brother on July 16, 2013, following a graveside service. The family will be celebrating her life with a memorial service in New York City in the fall; more information will follow in the September *Monterey News*.

—Robin Messing Bogdanoff

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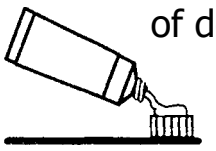
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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Contributors

Many thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual appeal. The *News* staff and Board of Directors are very grateful for your continuing support of our community newspaper.

Ellen Coburn
Fred & Margaret Vorck
Leslie & Dick Roth
Mick Burns
Cos & Margery Spagnoletti
Charles & Marylou Adams
Ellen Pollen
Liz Oppenheimer
Robert & Roberta Silman
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Margaret K. Dudley
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Judith Friedman
Richard Baczewski
Christa & Ian Lindsay
Lois & Michael Storch
Sharon Rosenberg
Arlene Tolopko
Adam Brown & Hannah Fries
Muriel Lazzarini
Sharon Magruder

Debbie Slater

Myrna Rosen presided over a very successful plant sale during the Friends of the Monterey Library's annual used book sale on July 27.

"New Marlborough Artists" at Meeting House Gallery

An opening reception for *New Marlborough Artists' Show*, an invitational show presenting the work of New Marlborough artists and others from the region will be held on Friday, August 30, from 5–7 p.m. The show will run through Sept. 29.

The Meeting House Gallery is located at 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, New Marlborough. For information call 413-229-2785 or go to www.newmarlborough.org.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Every Sunday through October: Softball game at Greene Park, 10 a.m.

Every Tuesday through August: Sewing circle with Mary Kate Jordan, 10–11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Every Saturday through August: Catholic Mass at Our Lady of the Hills, Beartown Mtn. Rd., 7 p.m.

Through August 24: *Matter: Reconsidered*, exhibit of works by 17 local artists, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, during library hours.

Saturday, August 3:

Berkshires in the Twenties Garden Party to benefit Bidwell House Museum, 4–7 p.m., Fiddletop, Wellman Road, Monterey. $50; information and reservations, 413-528-6888, www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Second homeowners' meeting with Select Board, 10 a.m., Town Hall.

Magician Ed the Wizard will spin his magic, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Monterey Parks Commission Movie Night, Greene Park, 8ish.

Music & More presents pianist Xuerong Zhao, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. $15; $10 NMVA members. Reserve tickets at tickets@newmarlborough.org, or 413-229-2785.

Free Latin music concert by Trio Candela, 7:45 p.m., Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 8, East Otis. Latin food will be available from 6–7:30 p.m. Information 413-269-4400.

Thursday, August 8: Free cholesterol screening and class by BVNA, Monterey Town Hall, 2:30–4p.m. Registration required: 413-447-3052. See p. 7.

Friday, August 9: George Packer will read from his new book, *The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America*, 8 p.m., Monterey Library. Free; see p. 5.

Saturday, August 10:

Music and stories for all ages by Mary Jo Maichack, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Music & More presents Bach, The Art of the Fugue, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. 413-229-2785.

Saturday, August 17:

MontereyFest, fun activities for everyone all day around town. See p. 3.

Lenox Contradance, 8–11:30 p.m., Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Live music by Spare Parts, Caller: Quena Crain. New dancers come at 8; www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Saturday, August 24:

Bidwell House History Talk by Allegra di Bonaventura: "The Hempstead and Jackson Families: Twisted Tales of Love, Loyalty, Slavery, and Subversion in Colonial New England," Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 a.m. $15, members $10. See p. 11.

Music & More presents Daedalus Quartet, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. 413-229-2785.

Sunday, August 25: Lobsterfest, Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, 2 p.m., Hatchery Road, Hartsville. See p. 18.

Monday, August 26: Adult book group will discuss *Nothing Daunted* by Dorothy Wickenden, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Friday, August 30:

Opening reception for *MaryPaul Yates: Fabric Design*, 6–7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. At 5:30 p.m., MaryPaul will talk on "So What Is Fabric Design, Anyway?" Show runs through September 28. See p. 15.

Opening reception for *New Marlborough Artists' Show*, 5–7 p.m., Meeting House Gallery, Rt. 57, New Marlborough.

Saturday, August 31:

Bidwell House History Talk by Simon Winchester: "*The Men Who United the States*," Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 a.m. $15, Bidwell House members $10. See p. 25.

Music & More presents Music of Charles Ives, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House, Rt. 57. 413-229-2785.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer

June 26 26 – July 25

High temp. (7/18)	89º
Low temp. (7/25)	50°
Avg. high temp.	80.6°
Avg. low temp.	63.8°
Avg. temp.	72.2°
Total rainfall	3.5 in.

Rainfall occurred on 17 days.

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(for questions about your tax bill)

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(for marriage licenses, death & birth certificates, census, dog licenses)

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Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136

Highway Department: 528-1734

Executive Secretary: 528-1443 x111
(for Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and other misc. questions)

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Reporter..... Susan Gallant
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, 11; Rachel Arnow, 7; George Emmons, 18;
Bob Horvath, 17; Bonner McAllester, 20.

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